

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Bacchiochi: Grant Okayed for Somers H. S. Auditorium Sound System Upgrades



A \$3,500 arts grant that will help pay for a new sound system at the Somers High School auditorium has been approved by the state Office of Policy and Management, said state Representative Penny Bacchiochi, R-52nd District, who helped secure the funding.

The grant, which will help pay for the purchase and installation of new speakers, is the second of a three-phase project to upgrade the sound system in the auditorium, said Kathy Welch of Somers, a volunteer who works with the Somers High School Drama Club.

“After I asked Representative Bacchiochi if any state funding was available to help pay for the improvements to the sound system, she advised us on how to apply for the grant and walked us through the process. She was very, very helpful,” Mrs. Welch said. “She also was the guest speaker at our International Thespian Society induction ceremony for new members. She gave a short speech congratulating the students and encouraged them to develop their talents to the fullest.”

“The new sound system will replace one that is more than ten years old and is original to the building. Once it is installed, sound clarity will be enhanced throughout the auditorium, enabling everyone to fully appreciate the plays staged by the talented members of the Somers High School Drama Club. In addition, residents who attend meetings and other events held throughout the year at the auditorium will find it easier to hear what is being said on the stage. It is a project that will benefit the entire community. I’m glad I was able to help secure this grant,” Representative Bacchiochi said.

The first phase of the project, which got underway two years ago, involved the purchase of microphones, transmitters and receivers for the student performers at a cost of about \$6,300. The money came from box office receipts from previous plays, Mrs. Welch said.

The final tab for purchasing and installing the new system will be about \$22,000. So far, the Drama Club has come up with about \$19,700 (including the \$3,500 grant) with their own fundraising events and donations from several groups including the Somers Village Players, the Somers Cultural Arts Commission, the Somers Music Patrons and various

individuals. The club hopes to raise the remaining \$2,300 through contributions from individuals and community groups, Mrs. Welch said.